

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 03455 051534Z
ACTION EUR-08

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S E C R E T BELGRADE 3455

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, YO, KS, KN
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAVIA TRIPARTITE INITIATIVE ON KOREA--MEETING
WITH BERNARDIC

REF: BELGRADE 3354 AND PREVIOUS

1. AMBASSADOR MAY 4 MET WITH FSFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERNARDIC TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS REGARDING YUGOSLAV DISCUSSIONS OF TITO INITIATIVE AND TO ASK FOR YUGOSLAV INTENTIONS ON TREATMENT OF KOREA IN NON-ALIGNED (NA) CONTEXT. AMBASSADOR SAID WE HAVE LEARNED THAT YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS HAD BRIEFED JAPANESE AND AUSTRALIANS ON THE AGREEMENT FOR TITO TO APPROACH THE NORTH KOREANS. THIS, HE STRESSED, HAD PLACED US IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION WITH TWO OF OUR ALLIES, SINCE WE HAD NOT TOLD THEM ANYTHING. RELATED TO THIS, HE INDICATED, WAS THAT YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS HAVE NOT BEEN PRECISE IN DISCUSSING U.S. VIEWS. AMBASSADOR PROCEEDED TO REITERATE U.S. POSITION ON KOREA.

2. IN HIS RESPONSE BERNARDIC CONFIRMED THAT YUGOSLAV UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED TO BY PRESIDENTS
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BELGRA 03455 051534Z

CARTER AND TITO WAS AS AMBASSADOR HAD OUTLINED. HE WENT ON THAT AFTER RETURN TO BELGRADE OF TITO AND PARTY YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD REPORTED THAT "SOUTH KOREAN INTELLIGENCE" HAD PICKED UP THE MATTER AND LEAKED IT TO THE SOUTH KOREAN PRESS. THIS WAS HOW, ACCORDING TO BERNARDIC, STATE DEPARTMENT HAD DESCRIBED LEAK TO YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. BERNARDIC SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF BRIEFINGS FOR JAPANESE AND AUSTRALIANS,

BUT ONLY THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD INFORMED "THEM GENERALLY" OF TITO VISIT, BUT THAT HE DID NOT THINK KOREA DISCUSSION WAS INCLUDED. BERNARDIC SAID THAT GOY HAD BRIEFED SOME FOREIGN AMBASSADORS IN BELGRADE AND HAD PREPARED A SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON THE TITO-WASHINGTON VISIT FOR MINIC'S DISCUSSIONS WITH BREZHNEV. BUT, HE SAID, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE BRIEFINGS WERE DETAILED ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. HE STRESSED HE WAS SPEAKING ABOUT OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING BRIEFINGS WHICH FSFA HAD ISSUED. HE SAID GOY DID NOT INFORM THE PRC OF THE KOREAN INITIATIVE.

3. BERNARDIC AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR'S VIEW THAT A WAY BE FOUND TO KEEP EACH OTHER INFORMED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROPOSAL AND RELATED MATTERS. AMBASSADOR THEN MOVED ON TO QUESTION OF KOREA AS ITEM FOR DISCUSSION IN FORTHCOMING NA MEETINGS, STATING THAT CONTRARY TO INDICATIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OTHER YUGOSLAVS, WE HAD LEARNED THAT KOREA WAS TO BE ON THE NA MEETINGS AGENDA -- AND ON THE AGENDA. WE SUPPOSED, AS A YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE.

4. BERNARDIC REPLIED THAT KOREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON NA AGENDA BUT NOT, REPEAT NOT, AS A YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE. HE SAID KOREA IS NOT ON THE "FRONT LINE" OF NA INTERESTS, ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT IT DEPENDS ON HOW THE DPRK APPROACHES THE ISSUE. YUGOSLAVIA WISHES KOREA TREATED IN CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BELGRA 03455 051534Z

5. AMBASSADOR STATED HE RAISED ISSUE BECAUSE OUR CONCERN IS HOW KOREA WOULD BE HANDLED BY THE NAM AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF TRYING TO GET THE LOW LEVEL TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS STARTED. HE ASKED FOR SOME INDICATION ON HOW KOREA WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE NA MEETINGS AND WHETHER YUGOSLAVIA WILL TRY TO GET THE NAM TO ENDORSE TITO'S PROPOSAL TO NORTH KOREA.

6. BERNARDIC STATED THAT THE NACB, "PROBABLY" MEETING IN NEW YORK ("SINCE KABUL IS DEFINITELY OUT"), WILL BE COMPLETELY DEVOTED TO PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE ANY IMPORTANT DEBATE ON DETAILS ON ANY ISSUES, INCLUDING KOREA. HE THOUGHT THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD LEARNED FROM THEIR TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE AT COLOMBO THAT TRYING TO GET A RESOLUTION PASSED HASTILY WOULD MEET WITH RESERVATIONS. YUGOSLAVIA'S POLICY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS CLEAR AND GOY IS COMMITTED TO PURSUE PEACEFUL MEANS TO OBTAIN PROGRESS, TO BE PATIENT, AND TO DO NOTHING TO COMPROMISE THE TITO INITIATIVE.

7 AS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUERY ON WHETHER THE NORTH KOREANS HAD YET RESPONDED TO TITO PROPOSAL, BERNARDIC ANSWERED "NOT YET."

EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

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